MANITOBA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Parks Branch,
280 Smith Street,
Winnipeg, Manitoba.
R3C 1K2

June, 1984

Dear Recipient:

I take pleasure in sending you the enclosed background report to initiate the Hecla Management Plan Program. This booklet provides information about Hecla and Grindstone Provincial Parks, and contains a detachable, postage-paid questionnaire.

The report outlines Parks Branch's objectives for Hecla and Grindstone Provincial Parks, and identifies several topics or issues which require further discussion. The topics presented are those which Parks Branch believes are most significant. Should you wish to identify additional topics and give your views concerning them, please feel free to do so.

The Parks Branch will be holding public meetings and drop-in sessions to review the background report and provide opportunities for discussions between Parks' staff and the interested public; dates and places are provided below.

GIMLI	Gimli Arena - July 9, 1984 7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.	Gimli Arena - July 10, 1984 12:00 noon - 9:00 p.m.
RIVERTON	Riverton Hall - July 11, 1984 7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.	Riverton Hall - July 12, 1984 12:00 noon - 9:00 p.m.
HECLA PARK		Gull Harbour Lodge - July 14, 1984 12:00 noon - 9:00 p.m.
WINNIPEG	Norquay Auditorium - July 16, 1984 7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.	Norquay Auditorium - July 17, 1984 12:00 noon - 9:00 p.m.

2 . . .

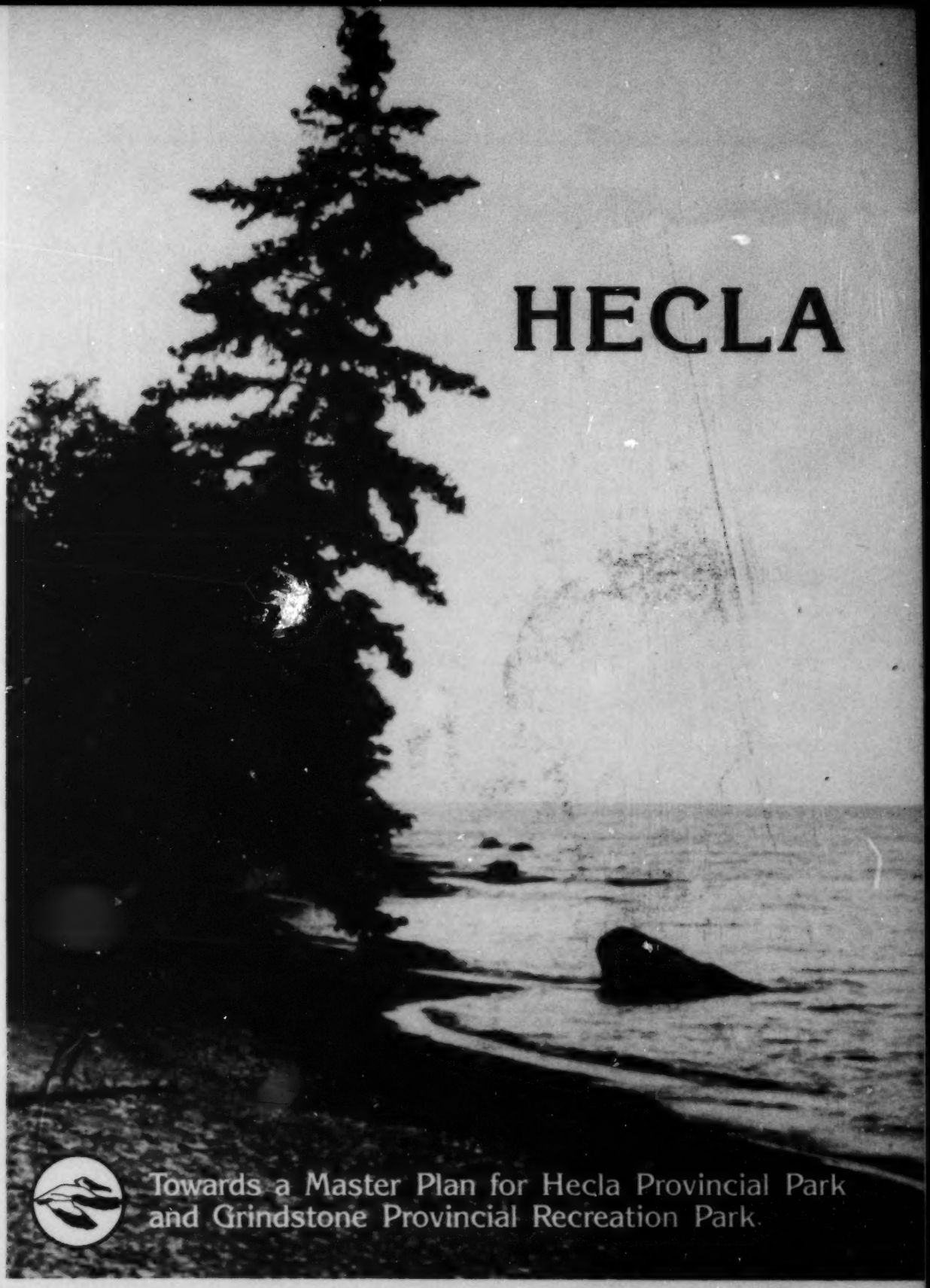
As a recipient of this booklet, your name is included on a central mailing list and you will be informed of all upcoming events by mail. Thank you for the interest in Hecla and Grindstone Provincial Parks. Your continued involvement in the planning process will be appreciated.

For further information, contact the Parks Branch, 280 Smith Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 1K2 (944-4380).

Yours truly,

James E. Potton,
Director of Parks.

Attachment.

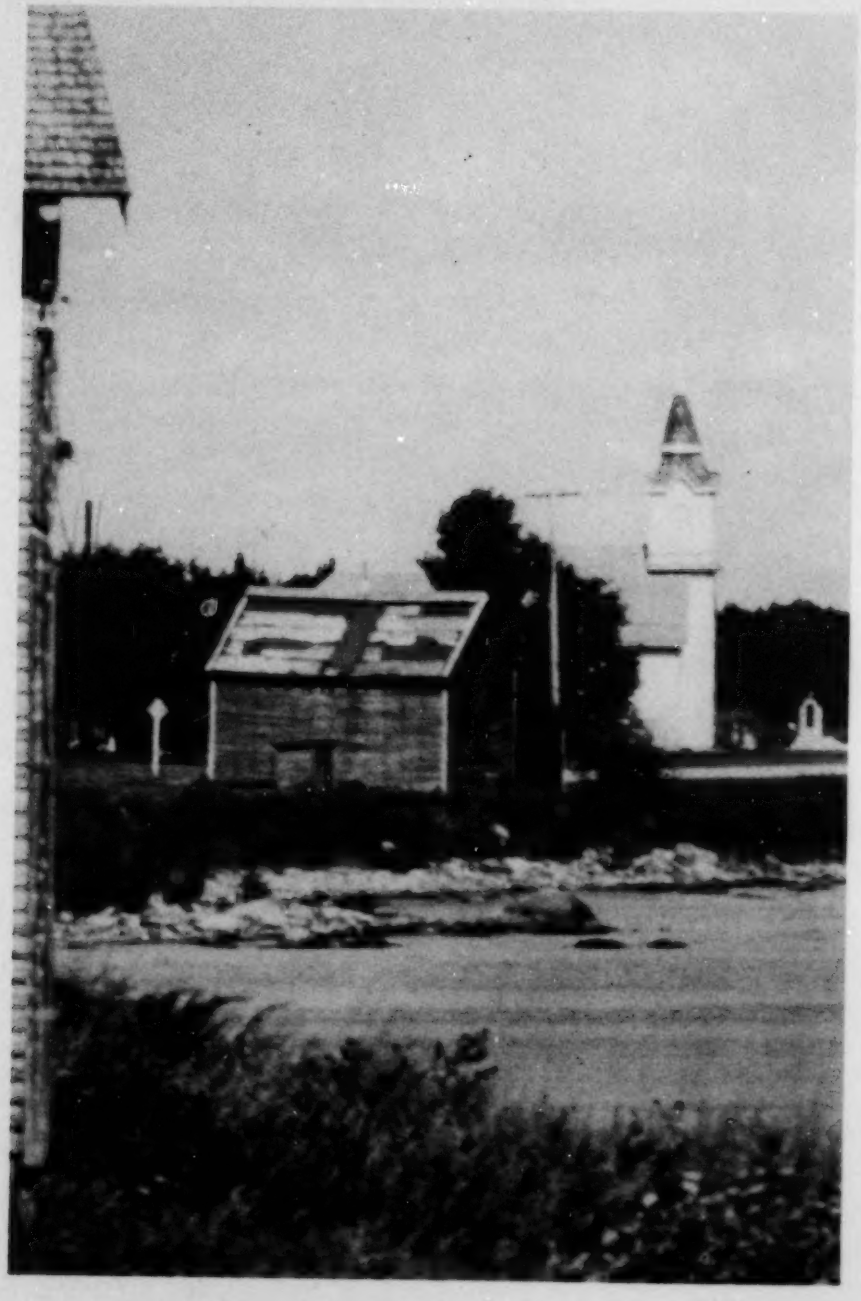


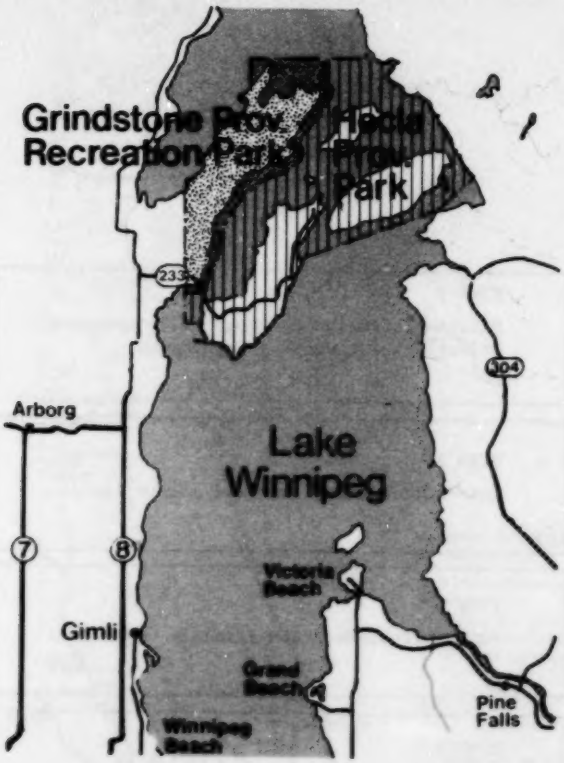
HECLA

Towards a Master Plan for Hecla Provincial Park
and Grindstone Provincial Recreation Park.

Manitoba
Natural Resources
Parks

84- 4095 /





Hecla and Grindstone Provincial Parks comprise the master plan study area. The master plan considers both parks, recognizing their distinctive character and potential.

The study area is a provincially significant landscape with a variety of natural and cultural features and outdoor recreation attractions. Since these parks were designated in 1969, both have undergone considerable change. Now, attention must be given to future management and development requirements while building on past efforts. The master plan will do just that.

Why a Master Plan?

The purpose of a master plan is to provide direction for orderly future development, management and protection of a park's natural and cultural resources. Hecla Master Plan will provide such direction for Hecla Provincial Park and Grindstone Provincial Recreation Park by establishing each park's fundamental objectives and ultimately determining what will go on in the park, what recreational opportunities will be provided, where specific activities will be permitted and under what conditions.

Parks Branch invites and encourages the active involvement of all interested Manitobans in developing Hecla Master Plan. A special invitation is extended to users of Hecla and Grindstone and to nearby residents.

This booklet provides a summary of important information about the area, an outline of the planning process and an opportunity to express your opinions on Hecla and Grindstone. Your opinions will be carefully considered to help develop a meaningful and useful plan.

The Master Plan Process

Master Plans for major provincial parks will be prepared every ten years. The public will have the opportunity to participate in the development of these master plans at key steps.

A variety of information is used to determine the final plan recommendations. For instance, the proposals made for Hecla and Grindstone must be acceptable under provincial park legislation and policy, reflect care for the natural and cultural resources and recognize capability for land use. Your views and ideas are also a critical consideration.

This booklet is Step 1 in the planning process for Hecla Master Plan. It presents planning objectives and topics for discussion on which your opinions are sought.

Once your comments have been received, (Step 2) additional plan objectives and proposals will be identified and a draft master plan will be prepared (Steps 3 and 4). A second round of public participation will occur at this point. In the last step, the Master Plan will be finalized, for approval by the Minister.

HECLA MASTER PLAN

Master Planning Process

STEP 1

Publish Introductory Report with specific objectives for Hecla - Grindstone

STEP 2

Informational meetings and public input

STEP 3

Publish responses and finalize objectives

STEP 4

Prepare and publish draft master plan

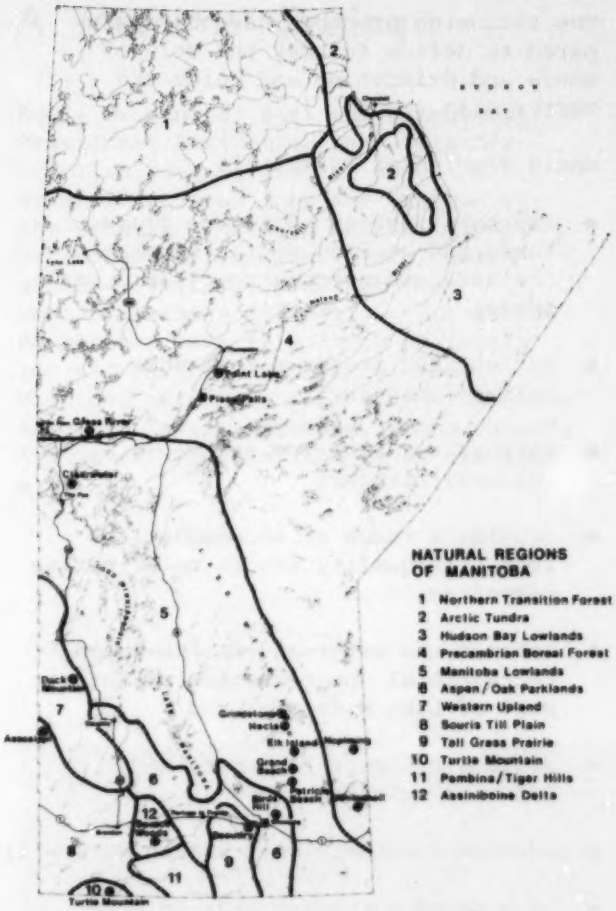
STEP 5

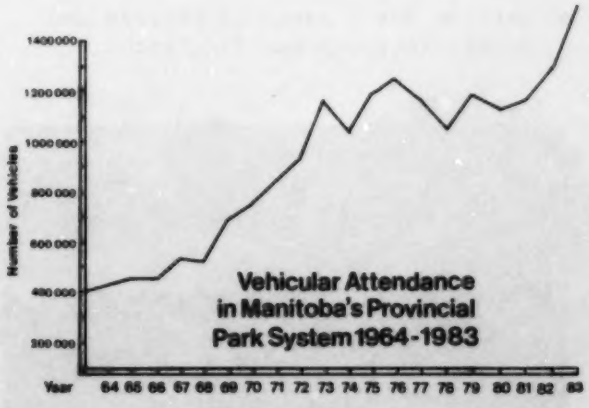
Information meetings and public input

STEP 6

Finalize plan and convey to The Minister

The Provincial Parks System





The Hecla Master Plan program is part of an overall plan for the Manitoba parks system. Manitoba's present parks system has grown rapidly since its advent in 1960. Today, provincial parks ranging in size from rest stops along Provincial Highways to large expanses of Manitoba's varied landscape attract thousands of visitors annually.

Legislation governing the establishment, development and management of Provincial Parks is set out in The Provincial Park Lands Act, which states:

> "Provincial park lands are dedicated to the people of Manitoba and visitors to Manitoba, and may be used by them for healthful enjoyment, and for the cultural, educational and social benefits that may be derived therefrom".

The Act further states that:

> "Provincial park lands shall be developed and maintained
>
> A) for the conservation and management of flora and fauna therein;
>
> B) for the preservation of specified areas and objects therein that are of geological, cultural, ecological or other scientific interest; and
>
> C) to facilitate the use and enjoyment of outdoor recreation therein".

Today, the Provincial Parks system includes a representative park in eight of twelve recognizably different natural regions of Manitoba.

The master plan for each park must reflect the provincial role and its distinctive character, capability, and use.

As the eleventh largest lake in the world and the sixth largest in Canada, Lake Winnipeg has long been recognized as a major recreational attraction. Set in the midst of the lake, Grindstone Point, Hecla, Deer and Black Islands, as well as hundreds of smaller islands capture a representation of the adaptation of man and nature to this lake environment. This rich mosaic of natural and cultural patterns, within a vast "inland sea", offers an opportunity to protect significant resources and provide unique park visitor experiences.

Hecla, which includes Black, Deer, Punk, Little Punk, Goose and a host of smaller islands is presently classified as a Provincial Natural Park, as are most of the larger parks in the provincial system. However, because of the park's special attributes, Hecla will be reclassified as a Provincial Heritage Park.

Heritage parks represent landscapes or sites that are one-of-a-kind. They preserve and interpret key elements of Manitoba's natural and cultural history, and provide a range of outdoor recreational opportunities and experiences that emphasize appreciation of heritage values.

Grindstone is presently classified as a Provincial Recreation Park. Recreation parks are designed to accommodate large numbers of people and a wide range of outdoor recreational uses. This classification appropriately reflects the role of Grindstone.

The following precepts have been prepared to define further the role of Hecla and Grindstone and guide the Master Plan.

Hecla Provincial Park will:

- represent and conserve the flora, fauna and geology of the Manitoba Lowlands and associated "inland sea" image;
- reflect and preserve Icelandic cultural history;
- reflect and preserve native cultural history;
- provide a range of accommodation from high-quality resort to primitive campsites;
- enhance the water-and-marine-based recreational opportunities of this part of Lake Winnipeg; and
- provide a refuge for moose and colonial nesting birds.

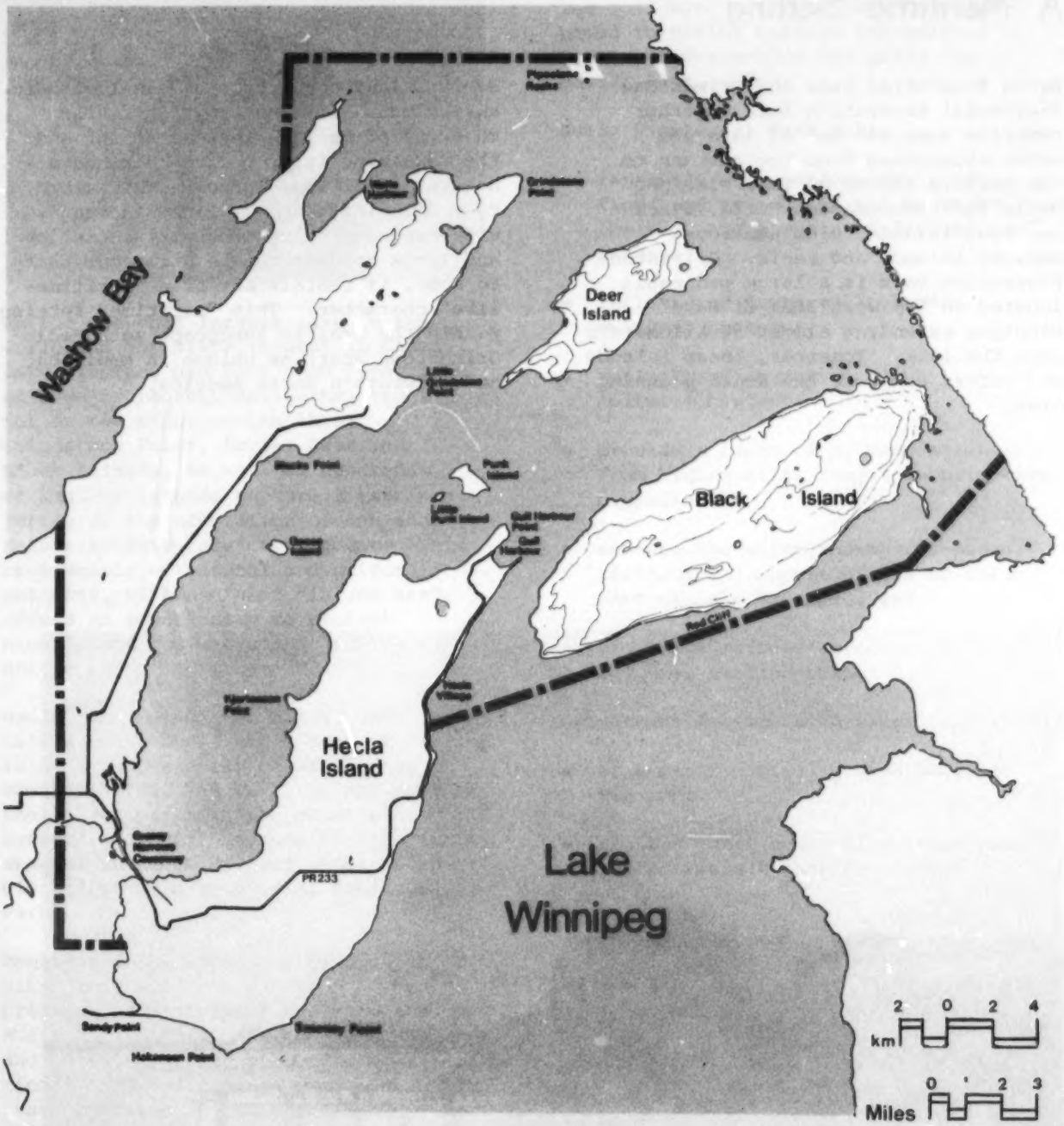
Grindstone Provincial Recreation Park will:

- be a major cottaging area on Lake Winnipeg.
- provide for a range of private and public recreational facilities.

A "Maritime" Setting

Hecla Provincial Park and Grindstone Provincial Recreation Park together comprise some 830 km² of land and water stretching from the western to the eastern shores of Lake Winnipeg. Hecla Park encompasses Hecla, Black and Deer Islands, plus numerous smaller islands and reefs. Grindstone Recreation Park is a large peninsula located on the west side of Lake Winnipeg extending almost 30 kilometers into the lake. Together, these islands and waters comprise the Hecla planning area.

Hecla Island once contained an Icelandic agricultural-fishing community. The majority of Hecla-Grindstone Point and the remaining islands have retained a natural condition, largely undisturbed by modern influences. Lake Winnipeg's wide expanses of water, rocky shoreline and large beaches create a flavour that to some, is reminiscent of a "maritime-like" character. This "maritime" setting within the prairie landscape sets Hecla-Grindstone apart as unique in Manitoba and midwestern North America.


Washow Bay
Deer Island
Black Island
Hecla Island
Lake Winnipeg
PR233
Sandy Point
Hokanson Point
2 0 2 4
km
0 1 2 3
Miles

A Mass of Islands

The diverse landscape of the Hecla-Grindstone area is the result of a varied geological history. Layered beds of sedimentary rock are plainly visible in places along the shore where sheer cliffs rise from the water. The shoreline of cliffs on Hecla is limestone while on other islands sandstone and shale are found. The splendid beaches of Black and Deer Islands are composed of silica sands derived from sandstone. The hard granitic rock of the Canadian Shield is visible along the eastern-shore islands. The rocky shorelines of the islands and peninsula form numerous natural harbours which can provide havens for small boats using the park waters.

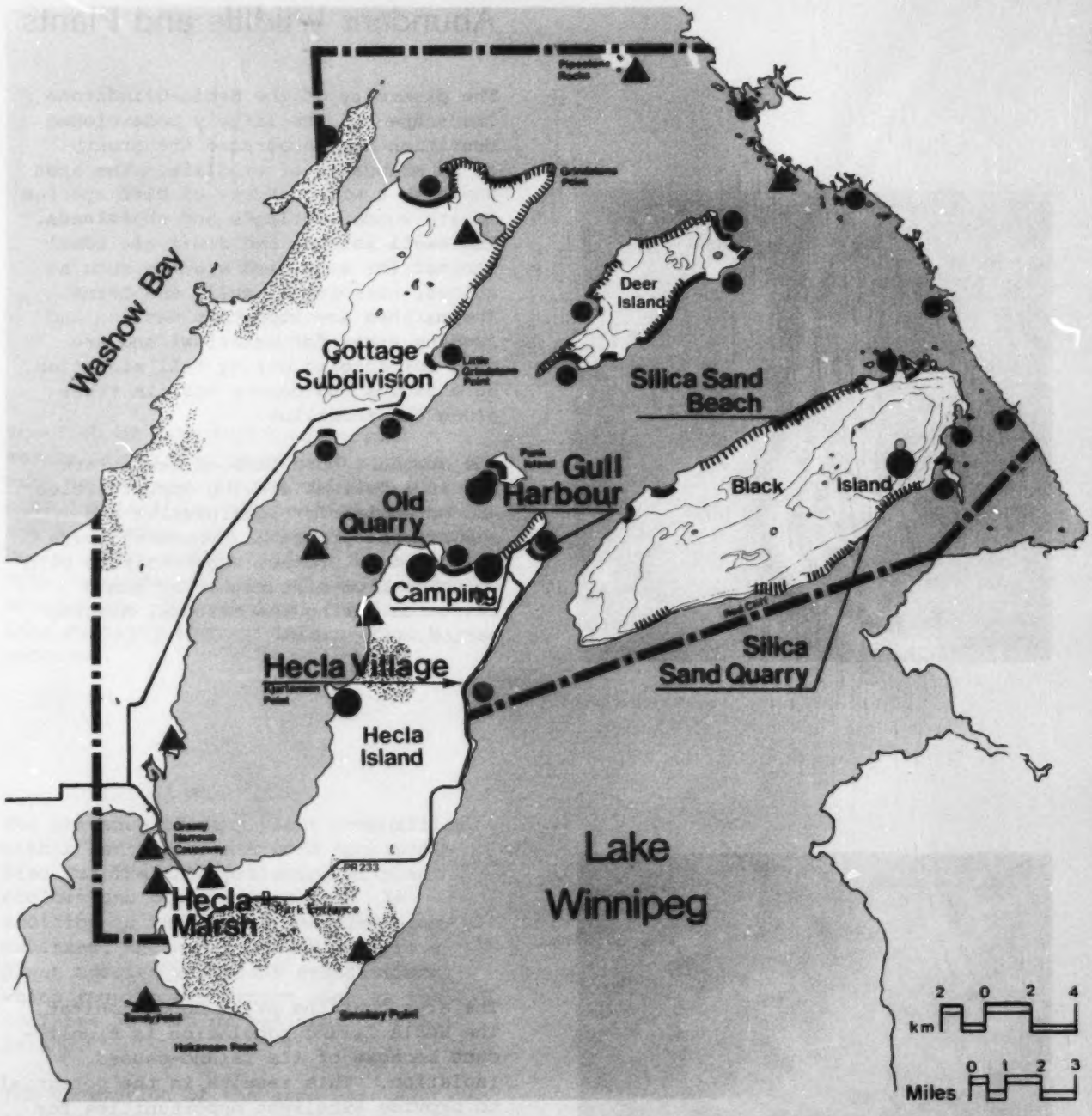
The diversified rock formations of the park area have importance as a commercial resource in addition to their scenic and interpretive value. Black Island has been a traditional source of silica sand used in the production of glass products. Several abandoned quarries on Hecla and Grindstone attest to the past importance of this area as a source of limestone rock. Today, silica sand is mined in an open pit on Black Island.

On top of the bedrock foundation, surface materials of varying textures and depths have been deposited. Grindstone Point and Hecla Island are covered mostly by fine-textured clays deposited by glacial Lake Agassiz. On poorly drained soils, extensive areas of marsh, bog and wet meadows have developed. Extensive peat deposits on Grindstone Point have attracted recent mining interests. Where the ground is higher and the soils better drained, a vigorous growth of mixed forest is found, with such tree species as aspen, white spruce, balsam fir and white birch being common. Potential often exists for the development of recreation facilities on such sites.

In contrast, the surface material of Black and Deer Islands is predominantly coarse-textured glacial till. Deer Island has shallow soils and the underlying bedrock is exposed in places.

Black Island is covered with a thick layer of till which rises to a height almost 60 metres above lake level. On these coarser soils, coniferous forests of white and black spruce, similar to those of the Canadian Shield to the east, have grown. Black Island is noted for a variety of landforms, soil types and vegetation and it is partly for this reason that the island has been identified for a conservation site by the International Biological Program.

The influence of Lake Winnipeg in the formation of the land complex continues today. Sand bars and beaches found throughout the park study area are created by erosion and deposition by waves and currents. These features offer tremendous opportunities for water-oriented recreation. The marshes and shoals are important nesting and feeding areas for birds.



Beach

Rock Cliff

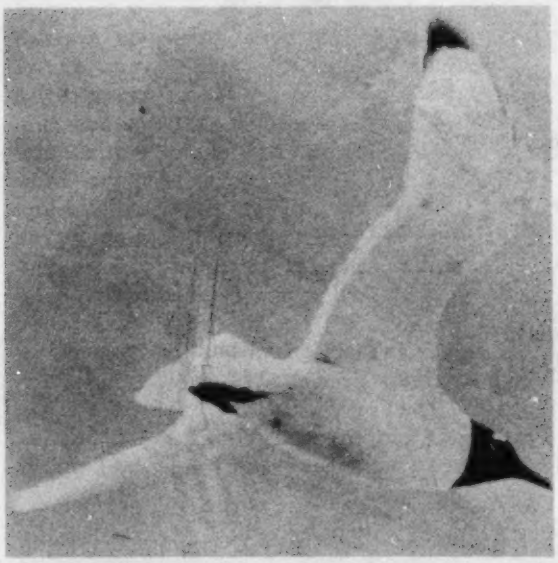
Harbour

Significant Vegetation

Significant Bird Habitat

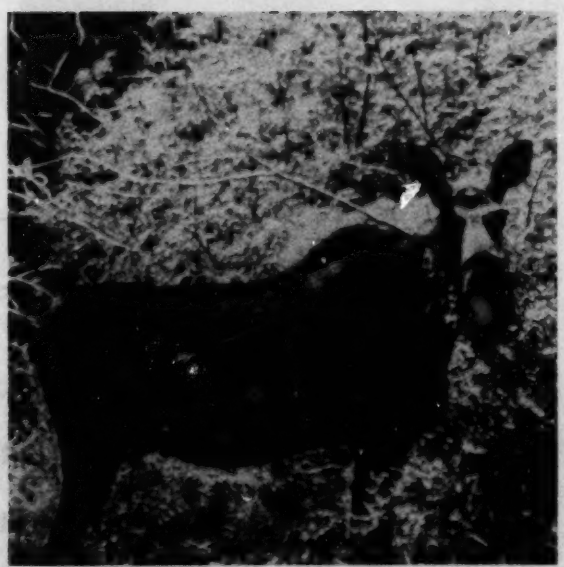
Prime Moose Habitat

Abundant Wildlife and Plants



The diversity of the Hecla-Grindstone landscape and its largely undeveloped condition has encouraged the growth of an abundance of wildlife. The area supports a wide variety of bird species in its woods, wetlands and shorelands. The small islands and reefs are ideal habitat for many bird species such as grebes, cormorants, gulls and terns. The marshes are important nesting and feeding areas for waterfowl and are used for staging during fall migration. Bald eagles and osprey nest in trees along the shoreline.

The abundant bird life of Hecla Park offers excellent viewing opportunities and potential for interpretive and educational programs. However, there is a need to protect the sensitive bird colonies from disturbance by human intrusion during the critical nesting period.



The area contains prime moose habitat. The Hecla Island population is significant because of its island-caused isolation. This results in the potential to provide excellent opportunities for viewing moose. The area is also used for recreational and subsistence hunting.

Five of nine known amphibian and reptile species found on Hecla Island are considered to be on the extremity of their range. The gray treefrog, an endangered species in Canada, is at its northern limit on Hecla Island.

The fish of Lake Winnipeg include several important sport fish species such as walleye, sauger and northern pike. Whitefish, tulibee and walleye are also major commercial fish species. Hecla is an excellent place for developing an understanding of the history and methods of commercial fishing on Lake Winnipeg through interpretive programs.

The presence of many plant communities within Hecla presents good opportunities for the interpretation of plant ecology and plant succession. In addition to the variety of plant communities, there are a number of rare plant species and plant associations which require protection such as the isolated pockets of red pine on Black Island.

The vegetation of the area has value as a commercial resource as well. In the past, logging occurred on Black and Hecla Islands. Today, a small amount of timber is cut on Hecla and Grindstone Point for lumber and fuel wood and there has been interest in renewed commercial logging operations on Black Island. This activity could conflict with the heritage values of the island.

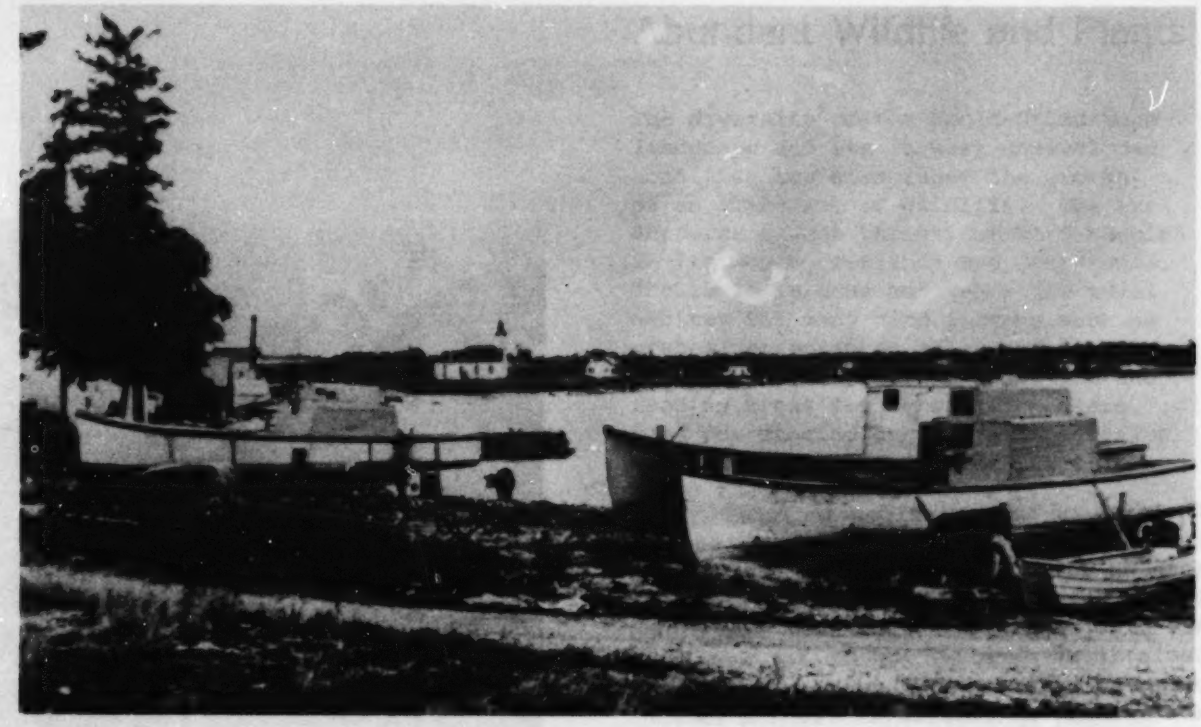


Photo courtesy Manitoba Archives

A Fascinating History

Hecla Island has a fascinating cultural history. The island was settled by Icelandic families who came to the area in 1876 following the volcanic eruption of Mount Hekla in their homeland. While the Hecla community was part of the larger Icelandic settlement of New Iceland, it was isolated due to its island location. The community which grew there became both socially and economically self-sufficient. The islanders used the forests of Hecla to build their homes, they hunted the game and cleared the land for farms. Fishing was an integral part of their lives, as it had been in Iceland. Commercial fishing continues to be an important vocation for the islanders who remain.

In order to exemplify the Icelandic heritage, existing structures are being stabilized to prevent further deterioration. The site of the settlement and the buildings that remain, provide the basis for much expanded interpretation and education programs. Interpretation of commercial fishing offers one such opportunity.

Several parcels of land remain in private hands on Hecla. Consideration will be given to the future of these lands and their potential significance.

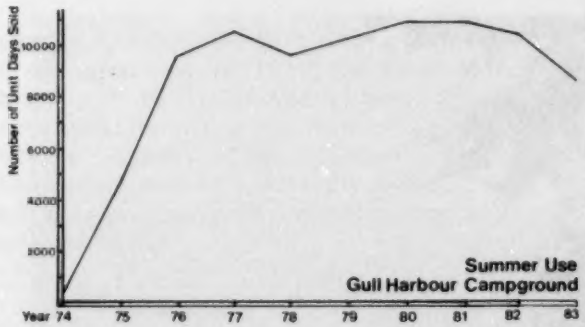
Black Island is important to the history of pre-European culture. It is known to have had special religious significance to the Saulteaux of Lake Winnipeg. Detailed investigation is required to determine the historic and interpretive value of these resources.

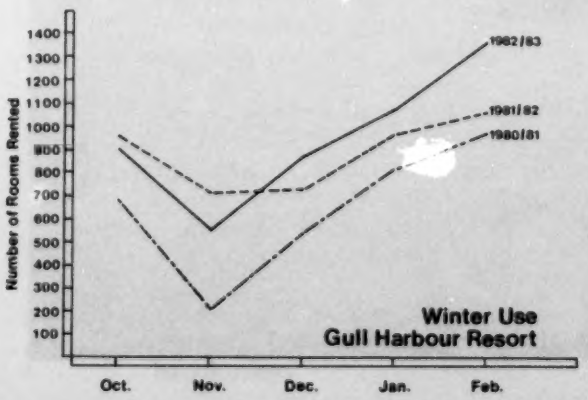
Enjoying Land and Water

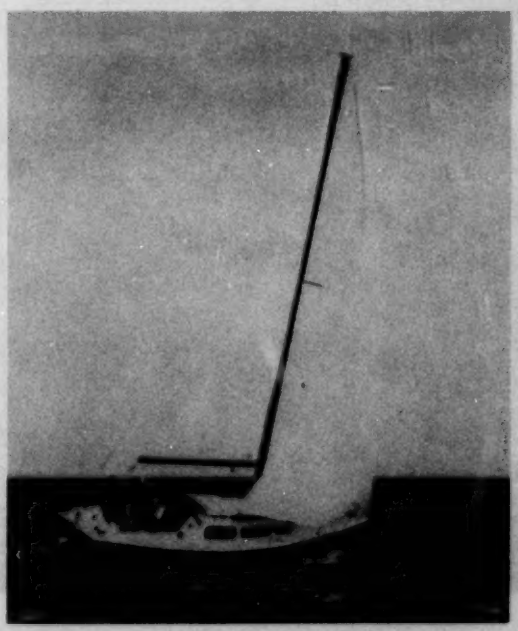
The recreation potential of the Hecla-Grindstone area led to the formation of the two parks in 1969, and a causeway and new road were built to connect Hecla Island with the mainland. Under the F.R.E.D. (Fund for Rural Economic Development) Program, federal/provincial funds contributed towards the development of a campground, public beach, 18 hole golf course and other recreational facilities at the north end of Hecla near Gull Harbour. A major resort hotel was built at Gull Harbour offering year-round accommodation and recreational activities. Recreation development on Grindstone Point consists of 350 cottage sites developed for lease purposes.

Today, Hecla is amongst the ten most heavily visited parks in the Manitoba park system. The 213 site Gull Harbour campground, for instance, exceeds capacity on several weekends each year. It is one of the top five most often used campgrounds in the park system. Tennis courts, interpretive facilities, amphitheatre and cross-country ski and snowmobiling trails also receive heavy use. While total numbers of users are greatest in the June to September period, increasing numbers of people are using the park in winter. Current use of the Gull Harbour Resort, increased winter activities and greater sailing interest on Lake Winnipeg suggest that Hecla be considered for further accommodation opportunities.

Significant land areas and natural features remain undeveloped. These have the potential to provide for additional and more varied recreation experiences. There is a need to determine the types of facilities which are required and how they should be developed.







Planning Objectives and Topics for Discussion

Some initial planning objectives have been identified in keeping with the proposed classification and precepts for Hecla and Grindstone. These objectives set out specific directions for each park and were established on the basis of an understanding of the character and use of the area, its role in the total park system and its relationship to park legislation and policy.

The brief background statements which precede the objectives indicate some of the considerations leading to them. A number of topics for discussion are also addressed. Response to these topics will aid in the development of additional plan objectives and programs.

Please refer to the enclosed questionnaire to record your comments on the park objectives and topics discussed in this section. You may feel that there are other topics or points of concern that have not been covered. Please indicate your views in the space provided.

1. Natural Features

The Hecla, Black, Deer and Punk Islands complex encompasses a range of significant natural features. Scenic limestone cliffs, nesting bird colonies, moose and rare stands of red pine are among the natural heritage features of Hecla Provincial Park. These and other features require careful management to ensure their protection and develop their potential for public enjoyment.

Moose have inhabited Hecla Island for many years. Prior to, and for nine years following the park's establishment, there was no hunting season. On the basis that moose numbers could be too high for the island to support, a hunting season was first introduced into Hecla in 1978. The moose population has since declined from an estimated 260 animals prior to 1978 to fewer than 150 in 1982.

Sport and subsistence hunting for moose is an important activity on Crown lands throughout Manitoba and indeed, in all provincial parks where there are moose. However, observations indicate that the chances of seeing moose frequently on Hecla Island is much reduced from what once existed.

OBJECTIVES

- to identify significant natural features in Hecla and Grindstone Provincial Parks, and define management requirements to preserve and interpret them for park visitors.
- to maintain and conserve Black Island's diverse and unique vegetation.
- to maintain sport and subsistence hunting opportunities for moose in Grindstone Provincial Park and on the offshore islands of Hecla Provincial Park.
- to manage Hecla Island as a refuge for moose, giving priority to opportunities for viewing and interpretation.
- to develop a comprehensive wetland management and interpretive program focussing on moose and waterfowl, with viewing stations, trails and brochures.

2. Cultural Features

Hecla Island was once a vibrant Icelandic community. Fishing for both domestic consumption and commercial purposes was the community's prime economic activity.

The early settlement pattern was set out in lots 20 chains or ¼ mile in width and depth to encompass 160 acres, the standard homestead size in Western Canada. Each settler received lake frontage, a portion of the well-drained farmland for gardens and crops and domestic cows and sheep, and the wooded lowland beyond, required for haying, home construction materials and fuel wood. This pattern, although modified by subdivision, has endured and is still very much in evidence along Hecla's southeast shore where the church, ice houses, boarding house and individual homes stand today.

The story of Icelandic settlement and of life on Hecla Island is a significant part of Hecla's cultural heritage. Commercial fishing demonstrations are popular with park visitors. Perhaps the recreation of "living" settlement is desirable on Hecla. At the very least, the cultural landscape will be maintained and the remaining buildings protected.

Icelanders were not the first inhabitants of the area. The Saulteaux Indian culture is another important and integral part of the park's history. Black Island was particularly significant in a religious sense, and was used by the Midewin society for some hundreds of years.

OBJECTIVES

- to stabilize the remaining Icelandic structures of historical significance on Hecla Island in order to minimize further deterioration.
- to maintain the cultural landscape of the Hecla Village and the existing settlement pattern.
- to manage Black Island in a manner which recognizes and protects its native cultural values.
- to develop interpretive programs for the appreciation and understanding of the cultural history of Hecla Provincial Park.

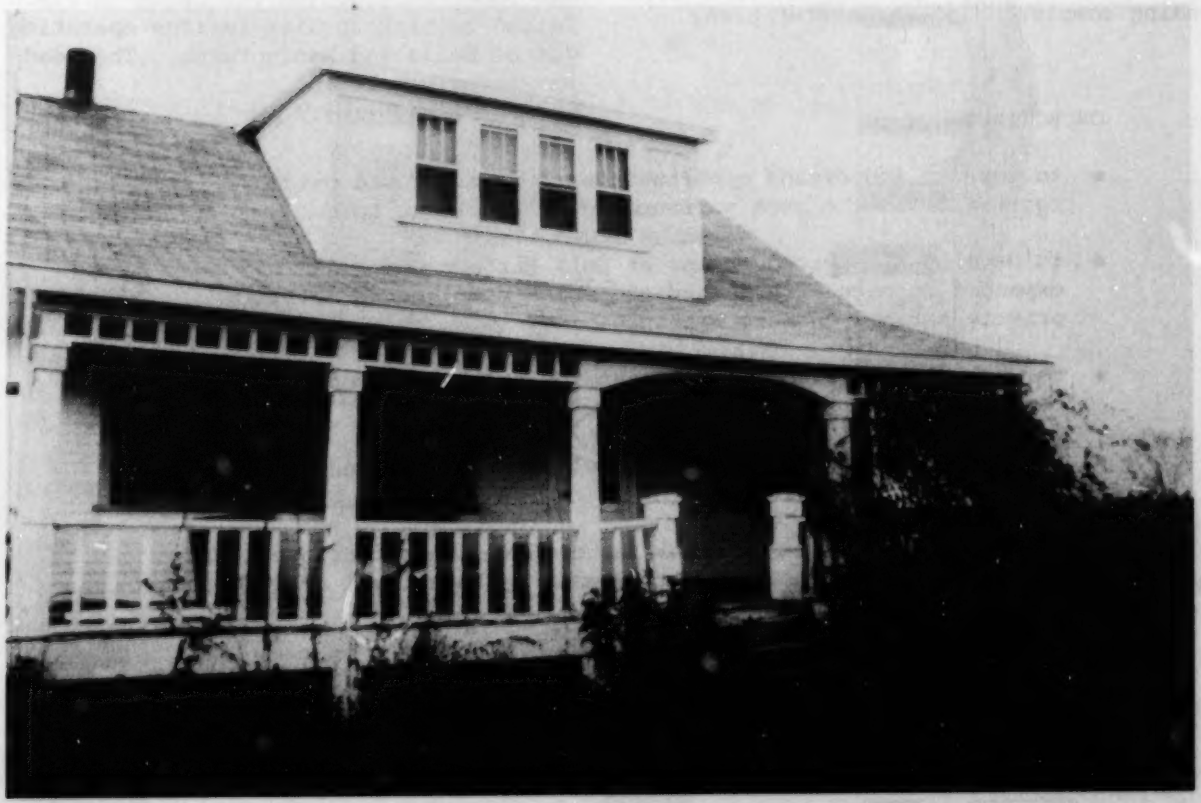
TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

The Icelandic settlement of Hecla Island has created a unique opportunity for the interpretation of cultural history. The extent of interpretive programming and building restoration could vary substantially. In addition, the use of land in the settlement needs to be considered. Requests have been received for the development of riding stables, family residences and commercial fishing operations in the village. With regard to these topics, approaches that could be considered are:

A) develop a full-scale village restoration through public and private funding to create a major tourist attraction, including such functions as living interpretation programs and period costumes, as well as retail outlets such as stores and shops.

B) provide selective expressions of the Icelandic settlement through limited building restoration and related information displays.

C) permit the leasing of former homestead sites where this will contribute to the continuation of traditional Icelandic economic and cultural activities.



3. Recreation

Hecla and Grindstone Provincial Parks provide a variety of recreational opportunities. Grindstone has been developed specifically as a cottaging area on Lake Winnipeg, whereas Hecla offers facilities for year-round use. The Gull Harbour Resort is often booked to capacity on week-ends by visitors seeking high-quality accommodation. Plans are now underway to expand the number of hotel rooms.

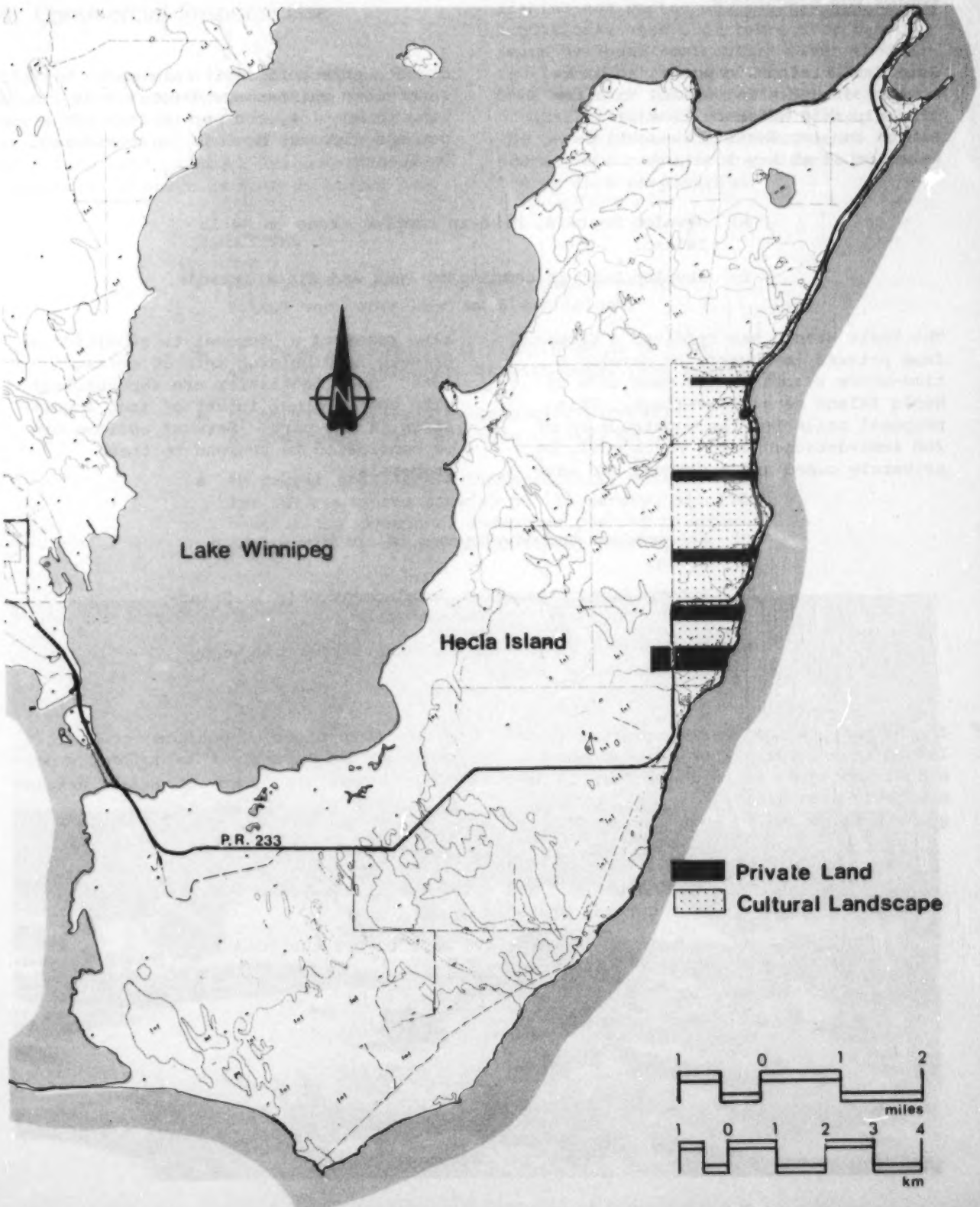
Recently, certain private landowners on Hecla Island have proposed the development of facilities ranging from a time-share resort to cottage subdivisions to campgrounds. Applications for such developments have been held in abeyance pending completion of the master plan.

Sailing is becoming a growing recreational activity on Lake Winnipeg and Hecla has the potential to attract more sailing enthusiasts. The limited service boat mooring facility at Gull Harbour is in need of improvement and upgrading for the comfort and safety of visitors.

Additional facilities for such activities as cross-country skiing, hiking, camping, boat touring and interpretation could enhance further the recreational potential of Hecla and Grindstone. Any new facilities or programs must be evaluated with regard to impact upon natural and cultural features and park operations and maintenance requirements. Provincial Road 233 which connects Hecla to the mainland has been improved in the past, but requires better surfacing to handle today's traffic volumes. Several years ago road construction was begun on Black Island to link up with ferries operating out of Hecla and Manigotagan. The road was never completed.

OBJECTIVES

- to improve and expand opportunities for year-round outdoor recreation in the area surrounding Gull Harbour Lodge.
- to develop a serviced marina at Gull Harbour which can be expanded in pace with demand and which complements existing private marinas on Lake Winnipeg.
- to work closely with federal agencies so that appropriate safe boating programs are encouraged.
- to expand the rental cabins on Hecla by 25 units and consider their year-round use.
- to expand cottaging opportunities on Grindstone consistent with resource capability and public demand up to a level of 1000 lots (including the existing 350).
- to develop a greater variety of trails on Hecla including hiking, self-guided and snowmobile trails.
- to encourage the establishment of a commercially operated public boat-touring service in and around the Hecla area.
- to diversify and increase camping opportunities by developing a new 100-unit waterfront campground along the southeast shoreline of Hecla Island.
- to exclude camping facilities from Grindstone Provincial Recreation Park.


Lake Winnipeg
Hecla Island
P.R. 233
Private Land
Cultural Landscape
1 0 1 2
miles
1 0 1 2 3 4
km

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Some park visitors camp in the back-country of Hecla Island and on a few of the park's offshore islands. Remote camping facilities could be established at key locations to encourage this activity, however, safety and maintenance factors relating to boating, the use of fire and garbage disposal have to be considered. Options are:

A) develop boat-in, hike-in camping areas on Hecla Island.

B) develop boat-in camping on Punk and Black Islands.

The Parks Branch has received a proposal from private landowners to develop a time-share resort on the east side of Hecla Island near the village. This proposal calls for the construction of 200 semi-detached units which would be privately owned and operated. We have also received a proposal to subdivide a private land holding into 30 cottage lots. Such facilities are inconsistent with the original intent of land acquisition in the park. Several options can be considered to respond to these proposals:

C) accommodate the development of cottage lots on Hecla.

D) accommodate cottage lot development only in Grindstone Provincial Recreation Park.

E) accommodate a 200-unit time-share resort development on Hecla.

In the past, a road was started on Black Island to provide a link between Hecla and Manigotagan via road and ferry. Today, only a partially completed road grade remains and is serving no purpose. While there might be options to use this grade in the future, it is no longer considered feasible to use it as was originally intended. Options are:

F) level the grade and allow the area to revert to a near natural state.

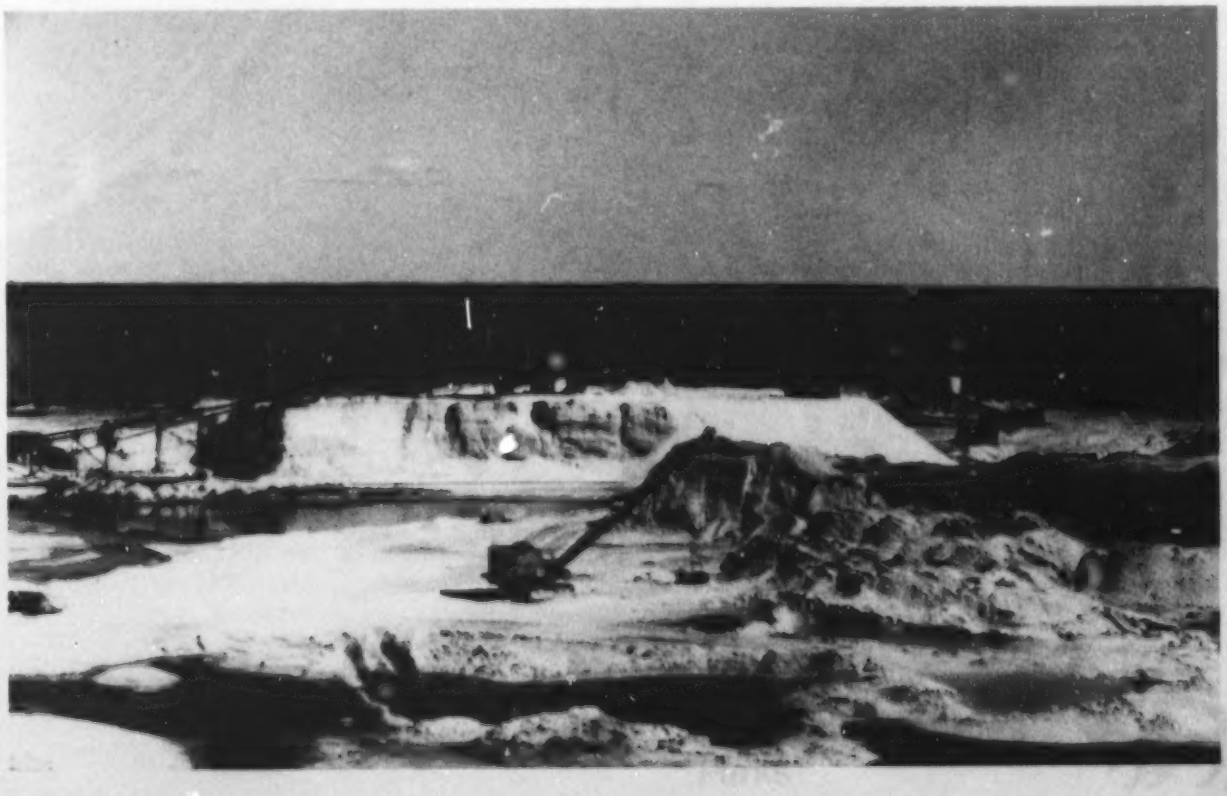
G) investigate alternative ways to use the road for recreational purposes.

4. Commercial Resource Use

Limited commercial resource utilization occurs on Grindstone Recreation Park and Hecla Provincial Park. Some of this use is long standing, such as the extraction of silica sand on Black Island. In other instances, activities such as commercial fishing and spring muskrat trapping are traditional uses undertaken over many years by local residents. Given the particular significance of Hecla, Black, Deer and Punk Islands and the multitude of smaller islands in Hecla Park, it is the general intent of Parks Branch to protect and maintain the natural character as much as possible.

OBJECTIVES

- to recognize as a long-term commitment the silica sand operation on Black Island.
- to recognize commercial fishing as an ongoing activity and integrate it with other park programs.
- to permit small-scale commercial harvesting such as fuel wood, post and pole cutting on Grindstone.
- to permit small-scale timber cutting on Hecla for park purposes such as public safety, wildlife habitat improvements, and/or as part of program designed to recreate the cultural history.



Comments Welcome

This booklet is Step 1 in the planning process for Hecla Master Plan. It has set forth precepts to define the roles of Hecla and Grindstone Provincial Parks, presented planning objectives and begun discussion on other topics. Your comments will assist in developing the master plan.

Please complete the attached questionnaire, staple or tape it closed and return to the address provided.

Thank you for your help and contribution.

Notes

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HECLA MASTER PLAN
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Department of Natural Resources
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YOUR RETURN QUESTIONNAIRE

This questionnaire lists the park precepts, objectives and topics for discussion. Your comments and additional suggestions are welcome.

Please write your comments in the space provided or attach additional sheets if necessary. Under the "topics for discussion", please check the appropriate box as well.

Thank you.

PARK PRECEPTS

HECLA PROVINCIAL PARK WILL:

COMMENTS

- represent and conserve the flora, fauna and geology of the Manitoba Lowlands and associated "inland sea" image;
- reflect and preserve Icelandic cultural history;
- reflect and preserve native cultural history;
- provide a range of accommodation from high-quality resort to primitive campsites;
- enhance the water-and-marine-based recreational opportunities of this part of Lake Winnipeg; and
- provide a refuge for moose and colonial nesting birds.

GRINDSTONE PROVINCIAL RECREATION PARK WILL:

- be a major cottaging area on Lake Winnipeg;
- provide for a range of private and public recreational facilities.

OBJECTIVES

1. NATURAL FEATURES

COMMENTS

- to identify significant natural features in Hecla and Grindstone Provincial Parks and define management requirements to preserve and interpret them for park visitors.
- to maintain and conserve Black Island's diverse and unique vegetation.
- to maintain sport and subsistence hunting opportunities for moose in Grindstone Provincial Park and on the offshore islands of Hecla Provincial Park.
- to manage Hecla Island as a refuge for moose giving priority to opportunities for viewing and interpretation.
- to develop a comprehensive wetland management and interpretive program focussing on moose and waterfowl, with viewing stations, trails and brochures.

2. CULTURAL FEATURES

- to stabilize the remaining Icelandic structures of historical significance on Hecla Island in order to minimize further deterioration.
- to maintain the cultural landscape of the Hecla Village and the existing settlement patterns.
- to manage Black Island in a manner which recognizes and protects its native cultural values.
- to develop interpretive programs for the appreciation and understanding of the cultural history of Hecla Provincial Park.

3. RECREATION

- to improve and expand opportunities for year-round outdoor recreation in the area surrounding Gull Harbour Lodge.
- to develop a serviced marina at Gull Harbour which can be expanded in pace with demand and which complements existing private marinas on Lake Winnipeg.
- to work closely with federal agencies so that appropriate safe boating programs are encouraged.
- to expand the rental cabins on Hecla by 25 units and consider their year-round use.
- to expand cottaging opportunities on Grindstone consistent with resource capability and public demand up to a level of 1000 lots (including the existing 350).
- to develop a greater variety of trails on Hecla including hiking, self-guided and snowmobile trails.
- to encourage the establishment of a commercially operated public boat-touring service in and around the Hecla area.
- to diversify and increase camping opportunities by developing a new 100-unit waterfront campground along the southeast shoreline of Hecla Island.
- to exclude camping facilities from Grindstone Provincial Recreation Park.

COMMENTS

4. COMMERCIAL RESOURCE USE

- to recognize as a long-term commitment the silica sand operation on Black Island.
- to recognize commercial fishing as an ongoing activity and integrate it with other park programs.
- to permit small-scale commercial harvesting such as fuel wood, post and pole cutting on Grindstone.
- to permit small-scale timber cutting on Hecla for park purposes such as public safety, wildlife habitat improvements, and/or as part of program designed to recreate the cultural history.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

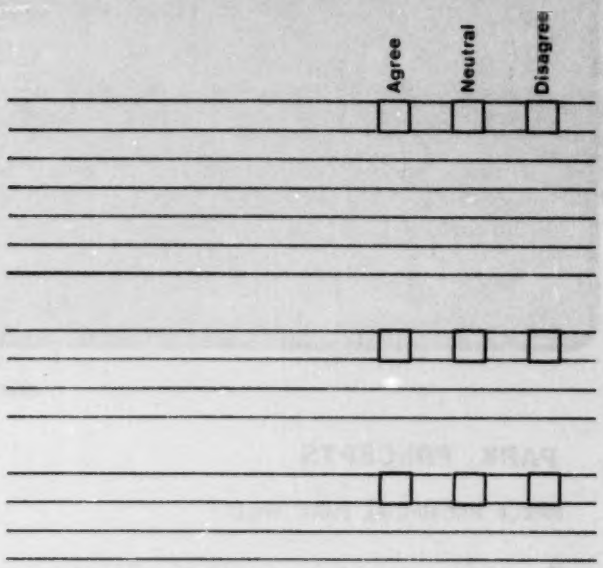
COMMENTS

1. CULTURAL FEATURES

A) develop a full-scale village reconstruction through public and private funding to create a major tourist attraction, including such functions as living interpretation programs and period costumes, as well as retail outlets such as stores and shops.

B) provide selective expressions of the Icelandic settlement through limited building restoration and related information displays.

C) permit the leasing of former homestead sites where this will contribute to the continuation of traditional Icelandic economic and cultural activities.



2. RECREATION

A) develop boat-in, hike-in camping areas on Hecla Island.

B) develop boat-in camping on Punk and Black Islands.

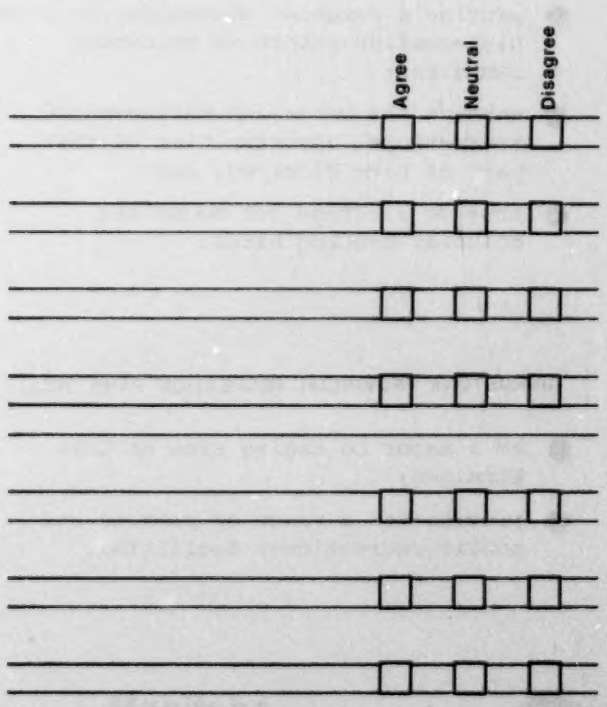
C) accommodate the development of cottage lots on Hecla.

D) accommodate cottage lot development only in Grindstone Provincial Recreation Park.

E) accommodate a 200-unit time-share resort development on Hecla.

F) Black Island Road: level the grade and allow to revert to natural state.

G) investigate alternative ways to use the road for recreational purposes.



The following information will assist us to compile responses from the public and to keep you informed.

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

_____

Group or Organization _____

Major Reasons for Visiting:

Hecla Park _____

_____

Grindstone Park _____

_____